

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was convened at 7:40 PM on September 25, 1989, Chairman William Press presiding.

In attendance were:

Frank Young	Marianne Cinaglia	Carolyn Liberman
Rae Gerstine	Jean K. Brachman	Don Holcomb
Bill Press	Aaron Hamburger	Alan Burslem
Lou Bean	John Dossett	Carl Falco
Skip Salkeld	Clara Dossett	Cy Liberman
Anne Berlin	Lee Starr	Ruth Panella
Ethel Monfort	A. Barnes King	Sam Panella
Harold Monfort	Eugene Shaw	Tim Colgan
Kate Threefoot	Leon Tanzer	Lew Aumack
Lanier Colgan	Bernie Brachman	Connee Wright McKinney
Gail Rinehart	Susan Rohrbach	Larry Walker
Jim Larsen	Bob Wynn (NV)	Mary Brent Whipple
Betty Knott	Maryellen Jobson	Peter Renzetti
Jannie Stearns	Steven Threefoot	Debbie Theis
Shaul Gladstone	Art Hurwitz	Frank Akutowicz
Sally Hamburger	Peggy Aumack	Chris Demsey
Thomas E. Colgan	John Demsey	Elizabeth Varley Walker
Paul Thompson	Joan W. Colgan	

Communications:

- \*Letter from Cecilia Vore, Editor of the Arden Page.
- "The September issue of the Arden Page was distributed over the weekend. It contained an unfortunate error: an obituary notice for Miriam Donovan. Mrs. Donovan is alive and well and living in Claymont. I spoke to her this morning to apologize. I also apologize to her friends and neighbors. The error occurred when I combined two hastily written notes to myself. I am writing clearer notes now."
- \*Lew Aumack and Leon Tanzer have been appointed as Arden's representatives to the Brandywine Council of Civic Organizations.
- \*Jannie Stearns has been appointed Arden's Record Keeper.
- \*The Assembly was asked to observe a minute of silence in memory of Mary Morley, Secretary of this Assembly for 35 years. The Civic Committee was instructed to plant a tree in honor of Mary.
- \*The Chairman commended the letters in the recent Arden Page by Cy & Pat Liberman and Leon Tanzer urging Ardenites to be good citizens by policing the public areas and participating in town government.

Minutes of the June Assembly approved as issued.

Nominations for the Board of Assessors for 1990/91:

Lew Aumack	Carl Falco	Hugh Roberts
Bernie Brachman	Aaron Hamburger	James Schwaber
Thomas Colgan	Yvonne King	Eugene Shaw
Michael Curtis (decl)	Cy Liberman	Woodrow Vandever (decl)
John Dossett	Harold Monfort	Elizabeth Varley Walker



Trustees - Shaul Gladstone

Taxes to be paid on September 28 total \$142,507.98 and are broken down as follows: directly to County - \$132,619.23, Senior Citizen rebates (24) - \$7,915.43, double payment reimbursements (3) - \$1,973.32.

The Trust has initiated legal proceedings to revoke the lease agreement covering lot #3B for the following violations of the agreement:

1. Lessee is "in default on payments of rent at the times agreed upon."
2. Lessee is "keeping the land in such disorder or using it in such manner as shall be injurious to the rights of others."

Quotations are from the lease agreement dated July 2, 1981.

This is the first time the Trustees have revoked a lease since Arden became an incorporated entity. We approached the matter with trepidation but felt we had no choice. We are seeking a summary judgement in court to collect back rent. The house may go for sheriff's sale. The tenant has received sixty days notice to vacate.

Assessors - Cy Liberman

There was an error in the June report - the A rate differs from the example. The A rate in the report is the correct one.

Budget - Kate Threefoot

Total projected income for 1990/91		\$242,655
Non-budgetable expenses	" "	182,545
Budgetable expenses	" "	75,800
Total expenses	" "	258,345
Expenses over income	" "	15,690
Reserve	" "	80,397

New item in the budget is \$2,000 for the Archives Committee. This is a one-time start-up expense for fire-proof cabinets.

Budget approved as submitted.

Buzz Ware Village Center Committee - Connee Wright McKinney

The sign in front of the building has been replaced and is now lighted in the evenings. We plan on putting rocks and maybe a small shrub at the base to protect the post.

The building will have new locks installed on October 1 so please turn in any old keys to Ruth Bean. The locks were replaced four years ago and the key supply has dwindled.

The ceiling in the girls' bathroom began leaking during the heavy rainfall in early July. The outside roof was repaired and seems to have stopped the problem.

The air conditioner in room 4 was used primarily by ACRA in early July and for some committee meetings. We are working on the honor system so please tell Ruth Bean if you logged any hours on the air conditioner that she does not know about.

The building was used by ACRA for six weeks this summer for their day program as well as for four evenings of Arden History presented by Joan Colgan, two pizza parties for the children and the ACRA play cast party. There were also seven committee and general meetings held there.

Our committee is working on some ideas for special programs to have in March and would welcome any resident's thoughts on programming. We feel that one or two session workshops are easier to organize, particularly if we are asking for teachers to volunteer their time.



7-28-89 3

Civic Committee - Eugene Shaw

Road repairs for this year consisted of repaving the intersection of Cherry Lane, The Sweep and Millers Rd., the north end of Sherwood Rd. and Pond Lane from the firelane to Meadow Lane.

We have used 25 tons of stone dust and chips along the sides of roads where the sides had been washed out or rutted by vehicles. Unfortunately, part of this was done just before we got 8-10 inches of rain in July.

Seats have been repaired in the open air theater.

The committee carefully considered the complaints that outsiders were using the Green. Our decision was that as the Green is parkland, anyone can use it if they obey the rules and regulations. Any person seeing someone not obeying the rules should contact the police and swear out a complaint.

We have been contacted by concerned residents about water from the Green running off into their leaseholds along Woodland Rd. Lew Bean had contacted Landmark Engineers for possible solutions and costs.

Discussion on use of the Green:

The rules state that use of the Greens is restricted to residents. This only applies to permits for continuous use. Permits are only useful to those who want priority use. Permits remind users of the rules and establish a responsible contact person. Casual use of the Greens is available to all.

Can we prevent Green use by outsiders since the Greens are public parkland? The municipality may set rules and regulations, but they must be applied universally to Ardenites and outsiders alike. Ordinance #4, discouraging routine use by outsiders, was written before the Greens, woods and roads were dedicated to the public to save on taxation. The ordinance needs revision.

The problem this summer was speeding around the Green during baseball games. It is easier to control Green use than to control speeding. How about speed humps around the Green to combat this problem?

Flooding on Woodland Lane Report - Lou Bean

At its regular meeting on August 14, 1989, the Civic Committee received a visit from a group of Woodland Lane residents who were concerned about their drainage problems. The heavy rains of the summer had caused severe flooding. Some residents had taken extraordinary measures to protect their property.

The first reaction of the committee was that these problems were beyond the resources of the town to correct. However, in deference to the strong feelings of the Woodland Lane residents, it was decided to retain the services of a drainage consultant and get his recommendations.

The consultant was Lowell Jacobs, one of the principals of the firm of Landmark Engineering. Mr. Jacobs had engineered all of the drainage work for the Brandywine River Museum. The meeting with Mr. Jacobs included input from the concerned residents. The length of Woodland Lane was walked by this group all the way to Naamans Creek. The report is as follows:



Problem:

As residences are built and roads and drives surfaced through the years more impervious surfaces are generated. These surfaces generate more runoff from a rainfall than the natural earth surfaces did. The increased runoff generates drainage problems throughout the area.

Residences downslope from Woodland Rd. are experiencing drainage problems after most significant rainfalls.

Solutions:

1. Don't allow the runoff to reach the area. Intercept and detain the runoff before it reaches the area.
2. Allow the water to reach the area and collect it with a network of catch basins and curbing and discharge pipes.
3. Allow the water to flow overland around the residences and try to minimize the impact by individual swales and drains and building waterproofing techniques.

Calculations indicate that the Green is probably responsible for 85% of the water reaching the affected area. If an interceptive earthen berm could be constructed on each half of the Green, the runoff would be reduced significantly. This is the technique of denying the runoff access to the problem area. These berms create detention basins for water that otherwise would cross Woodland Lane and cause problems. These detention basins would have small outlet pipes tied into the existing storm drainage piping so that the ponds would empty in a reasonable period of time. This is the indicated solution for this problem.

Some localized modifications to Woodland Lane could be performed at a later date if necessary, after the effectiveness of the detention ponds has been observed. These modifications could include adding rolled concrete curb and gutter on the lower side of Woodland, perhaps adding slot drains and piping or speed bumps at one or two locations to direct water into an existing basin, adding a basin and some piping just above the first driveway (this especially looks like a desirable component during the initial construction of the detention berms), and perhaps adding catch basins immediately above other driveways.

Estimated construction costs:

Detention berms on the Green	\$20,000
Modifications to Woodland Lane	25,000
Engineering fee	5,000

Following receipt of the report, Dick Askins of the New Castle Conservation District was contacted and asked about possible funding. He advised that they would consider joint funding and that we need only file an application. The Civic Committee recommends that we proceed with such an application. It would not be irrevocable. We can withdraw up to the point at which they do the engineering. We would thus have the benefit of a second opinion. It is our view that they are likely to choose Mr. Jacob's approach.

Discussion:

The dimensions of the proposed berm on the Green are impressive. The berm would seriously change the complexion of the Green.

Pete Renzetti proposed an alternate plan:



- 5
1. Aerate the surface of the Green to permit better percolation.
  2. Small macadam berm on the woods side of Woodland Lane.
  3. Grating where Woodland meets Green Lane. Perforated pipe and crushed stone drain would divert water into the creek.

A culvert area similar to the one in the Memorial Grove.

Don't do anything without renderings of the involved area. Drawings must be to scale.

What is the responsibility of the town vs. the responsibility of individual leaseholders? Many others have serious drainage problems.

We should have a plan for overall Arden drainage. This is an expensive, piecemeal solution. Porous paving is a solution; concrete grids with grass instead of hard paving. Infiltration is easier to maintain and less intrusive.

Long range planning is one thing, but an immediate solution is needed. How about a small berm on the downside of the road? This would temporarily disrupt parking.

The Green was immediately soaked during the heavy rain because of the high water table.

Torrents on Harvey Rd., where the ditches have been removed, are contributing to the problem.

Will the funding request to the County consider only the Landmark Engineering proposal? We should suggest options to the County. The County should assess the Arden drainage situation independently. We need short and long range solutions. This situation will not be solved quickly.

Moved that the Civic Committee apply to the New Castle County Conservation District for funding of this project.

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved that the Civic Committee look into the cost and feasibility of aerating the Green.

Motion defeated.

Moved that representatives of the Arden Safety, Civic and Community Planning Committees study ordinance #4 regarding rules for the use of the Arden Commons and shall report back to the town at the January Town Assembly. The dates of the meetings shall be determined by the Chairmen. These committees shall make the dates of the meetings public so any interested residents may attend.

Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Reference Committee - Mary Brent Whipple

The committee has nothing to report as far as activity since last Town Meeting except that a description of the committee's function was given to the Advisory Committee.

Plans are to meet with Bill Press to discuss Robert's Rules Of Order and points of parliamentary procedure most likely to be encountered at Town meetings.

Community Planning Committee - Gail Rinehart

Moved that the first alternate of all committees shall be charged to attend committee meetings as a non-voting member.



6

Discussion:

This motion would not apply to the Board of Assessors.

Pro: This is an attempt to involve more people in town affairs. Some committees, like Budget, require time to learn the procedure.

Con: I would not want to serve on a committee, assuming that responsibility, with no vote. On most committees, an alternate can come up to speed quickly when called upon to serve.

Motion Defeated.

We were concerned that during the summer, the grove below the Gild Hall looked rather unkempt. We are especially concerned about the path going along the pool fence; time and this summer's torrential rains have eroded it to the point where it is unsafe. Right after the excellent Fair clean-up, these conditions were much improved but we would hope that a more permanent solution to the erosion would be considered by the Club.

Safety issues have still been a concern. We understand that the Civic Committee has plans for placing speed humps on The Highway and Sherwood and we are very supportive of this.

We wonder whether a letter from the Town Secretary to the State Police requesting more regular and vigorous patrolling for speed on Harvey Rd. is not in order. Cars are driving way above the speed limit and there are several really dangerous blind corners between Veale and Marsh.

We have been in contact with the Civic Committee re: the various areas where there have been flooding problems. The gravel placed along Harvey Rd. on the recently renewed shoulders did not withstand heavy rains and both the Memorial Garden and many leaseholds were deluged.

At our next meeting we will be discussing leasehold management in preparation for further discussions with the Trustees.

We still hope to arrange a path clearing walk in the Fall, especially the one between the Old Pool and St. Martins Lane. We will publicize through the Arden Page.

Playground - Larry Walker

During the past quarter, the required playground equipment inspections were made. Four cubic yards of root mulch were added underneath the swings and jungle gyms and all of the equipment was examined and "adult tested" to ensure that it was in safe condition and in good repair.

The Pioneer Fence Co. was contracted to replace the center section of the baseball backstop on the Sherwood Green. However, they have not managed to fit this job into their schedule, so other arrangements will be made to complete the repair. The backstop screen is still serviceable, but because it was worn and bent, it was decided to replace the fencing.

Registration - John Dossett

There are 402 eligible voters as of tonight's meeting.

Safety Committee - A. Barnes King



County Police will patrol Arden on a contract basis. Off duty officers (in uniform, driving County Police cars) will patrol on 3 hour shifts, probably twice a week on a non-scheduled basis. Objective - better parking control and burglary suppression. Cost - \$17 per hour.

Cardiac/Pulmonary Resusitation classes will be conducted by The American Red Cross during late October or November. Residents will be advised on the schedule.

Harvey Rd. is becoming an increasing safety hazard. A report to Town Meeting will be made in January.

#### Arden Archives - Sally Hamburger

The committee has been busy planning for a visit from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A busload of conventioners will be visiting Arden on Sunday, October 15, following a morning tour of Rose Valley. After a box lunch in the Lower Gild Hall with set-up and beverages provided by the Meŕry-Go-Rounders, there will be a walking tour of the town with stops at Peg & lew Aumacks, David Burslems and Pete Renzettis. The afternoon will end with a craft exhibit and reception, provided by the Advisory Committee, in the Upper Gild Hall.

The National Trust is a non-profit, private organization chartered by Congress in 1949 to encourage public participation in the preservation of sites, buildings and objects significant in American history and culture. Their particular focus is the beauty of traditional architectural designs and ancient hand-crafting skills.

The Archives Committee will provide packets for the visitors which will include the Arden Book, copies of Mayda Brandner's excellent articles on Arden from Delaware Today and the recent Arden article from Mid-Atlantic Country Living.

Our major effort is the mounting of the craft exhibit. In addition to Don Holcomb's photo exhibit, we plan to include examples of old Arden crafts: furniture, ironwork, pottery, weaving and sculpture. We will also display the work of some current Arden craftsmen - we want to make sure the organization knows we are still a living, thriving community. We will be setting up the exhibit on Sunday morning under the direction of Sue Rohrbach. If you have any items you think should be included, please contact a member of the committee: Jean Brachman, Joan Colgan, Pat Liberman, Ethel Monfort or Sally Hamburger before our next meeting on October 11.

I think this will be quite a special exhibit - I know it will include items I am eager to see. Please feel free to drop by and see it on the 15th from 1-3 PM when the guests will be walking, or from 4-5 PM after they have departed. I don't want to keep you all hidden, just lessen the crush of people between 3 & 4. Unfortunately, we must dismantle the exhibit immediately, there's an event scheduled at the Gild Hall that night.

Someday, we will be able to display many of these things permanently in our museum.

to that end

Moved that the Arden Archives Committee be made a standing committee of Town Assembly under the following description.

- A. The Arden Archives Committee shall consist of five residents of Arden elected by a majority of those voting at the regular March meeting. The term shall be two years, three members to be elected on odd numbered years and two on even numbered years.



- B. It shall be the duty of the Arden Archives Committee to preserve and perpetuate the history of Arden as an intentional community. The committee shall:
1. Collect, catalogue and preserve Arden documents, photos and memorabilia.
  2. Present displays and programs about Arden's past, its people and its arts.
  3. Work towards creating and funding a permanent museum.

Motion passed.

Moved that ordinance #12, closing the woodlands from dusk until dawn, be continued for another year.

Motion passed unanimously.

Wynn report on the status of the Naamans interceptor,.

At the last meeting, the County presented 3 alternative solutions for the sewer problem. They obviously wanted agreement to replace the sewer at a cost of 5 million dollars. The committee refused to be a party to this solution. The County deferred a decision until late October or early November to give themselves time to find out where the leaks are. This is what they should have been doing all along.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Advisory Report - Marianne Cinaglia

The town will need a new secretary in March, Sally Hamburger will not serve after that election.

The committee is planning a day long retreat to brainstorm long range planning for Arden's future. Are our present systems adequate? What would we like to change, what would we like to preserve? How can we encourage broader community participation?

All committees will be meeting to consider agenda items for the retreat. Please contact a committee chairman or Marianne if you have concerns you think should be included.

Moved that we write a letter to the Arden Club requiring the Ardensingers to remove their banner, or have Delmarva remove the banner, over Harvey Rd. within 2 weeks after a show.

Discussion:

This motion should apply to all such banners. Banners should only be erected and removed by Delmarva. Delmarva claims they were delayed by the storm and lack of manpower. Can't we handle this by talking to the Ardensingers directly?

Motion passed.

History of Arden Water - Arden Archives report

Sally Hamburger read a history written by Virginia Shaw on the progress of the water supply in Arden from 1910 to the present.

Report from the Brandywine Council of Civic Associations

Lew Aumack, Arden representative



I am impressed with the group's intensity about rezoning. Any proposal calls for a study subcommittee. The dues may be increased to cover the cost of copying and mailing; we should respond favorably. The Council provides legal advice and a zoning course.

The Council is against the annexation of the Rock Manor Golf Course. The plan is inconsistent with the comprehensive development plans for County construction. It would interfere with the flood plains and cause a horrendous traffic increase. This land could be better used. County Council is also against the project and the Mayor has put it on the back burner.

There are no new development applications.

Meeting adjourned - 10:28 PM

*Sally Hamburger*  
*Secretary*